



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Founded in 1931

SEPTEMBER 2020
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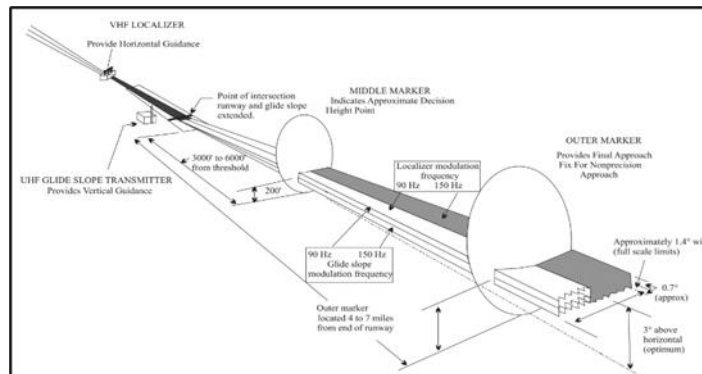
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RADIO IN AVIATION ONLINE MEETING AND PRESENTATION

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

First, September is the club's Annual Business Meeting. It has been an interesting year, please plan on attending and voting to help support the club!

After the business meeting, I will be taking the floor with a presentation on avionics. Of my many hobbies through life, I spent many enjoyable hours sitting in the left seat in command of an aircraft. My true love in aviation was instrument flying. There is something thrilling about taking off in snowy soupy weather, popping out "on top" of the cloud deck and landing in similar soupy conditions — only seeing the ground for a short period of time during take-off and landing.



How does that work? How do you drive an airplane safely down a virtual slide of an ILS and touch down on a day that is only safe for duck hunting? That's what I will be talking about. I flew private aircraft from 1994 to 2004 and hold private, commercial, instrument and multi-engine tickets. I flew for AirLife-Line in the 1990s as a volunteer pilot donating time and aircraft hours to transport critically ill patients. This was also interesting because I flew as part of a large mission on a number of occasions for the Children of Chernobyl from JFK to various locations in the US as a summer program to allow kids from the disaster area to spend time away from contaminated areas. I also served as an aerospace education officer and as a squadron commander in the Civil Air Patrol in Orange County New York.

The meeting will start 7:00 PM EDT. Please plan on arriving on time so we can achieve a quorum. To register, go to the following link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2017924203792028432>

Be ready to raise your hand and vote! Instructions for electronic voting is on page 9.

AGAIN — DO NOT COME TO THE BSA/SWC — YOU WILL BE ALONE!!



BOARDZ BUZZ

BRIAN O'CONNOR, KA2CGB

A lot has transpired since I last penned this column for the January Rag. Our last "in person" RARA activity was the 14 March Academy on FLDIGI: on that day the library closed its doors after our meeting and (as of this writing) has not reopened.

RARA quickly transitioned to online Membership meetings and Academy workshops. Everyone involved -- organizers, presenters and viewers alike -- needed to climb the online meeting learning curve. I encourage everyone to join all of our webinars.

Sadly, not all events can be conducted online. RARA needed to cancel our Hamfest, Summer Picnic and Annual Banquet. Event sponsors had to cancel upcoming public service activities (except the upcoming Pumpkin Patrol, which has always featured 'social distancing'). And while our FCC License classes have moved online, we are currently unable to conduct our free monthly License Testing sessions.

Many members have devoted some of their new-found "extra" time to ham radio. The ARRL recast Field Day this year to encourage operation "at home". We can take advantage of this period of social distancing by spending more time on the air, at the workbench, putting up a new antenna, or trying a new mode or a new band.

Our next monthly Membership meeting will be held online at 7:00PM ET (2300 UT) on Wednesday, 2 September. This session will include our annual business meeting, which will feature the election of RARA officers and directors for fiscal year 2021 (which runs through next August). The business meeting will be followed by an informative program on the communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS) systems that enable modern aviation. All members are encouraged to participate.

The next RARA Academy session will be a webinar on Saturday, 19 September. Larry, W2LB, and I will share our experience with Antenna Analyzers. We will describe different types of analyzers, and demonstrate how they can be used for much more than just checking antenna VSWR.

For a while we were all in lockdown, and are now into "Phase 4." Schools will try to reopen soon. RARA wants to reopen, too.

While I hope that RARA will be able to conduct the Members' Auction in November and to have our Winterfest in February, please rest assured that RARA will return to in-person activities when it is safe to do so.

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As a result of the continuing COVID19 concern, our "in-person" RARA events have been canceled in the near term. These include the monthly meetings at the BSA, our Hamfest, Tour de Cure, RARA Banquet, RARA Picnic and more. Building on the success of our online monthly meetings and RARA Academies, the board has chosen to continue to hold the monthly online meetings. Look for details of these meeting to appear at rochesterham.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 - RARA General Meeting
7:00 PM - ON LINE

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2017924203792028432>

TBD SEPTEMBER, 2020 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30PM ON LINE

Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org



EDUCATION

TIM BROWN, WB2PAY, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

RARA LICENSE COURSES

The Technician License class is FULL.

The General and Extra classes will not be held this September.

For those doing self study, the instructors Freddie Sulyma, WB2GFZ, and John Viggiano, NV2K, will help with one on one tutoring.

To arrange for tutoring, email:
education@rochesterham.org

ELMERS

RARA's Elmers have a wealth of Ham Radio knowledge and expertise. If you have a technical or operational question, let the RARA Elmers help you.

Elmers are listed at:
<https://www.rochesterham.org/learn.htm>
or
You may send your inquiry to education@rochesterham.org

RARA ACADEMY WORKSHOPS

September 19th -- Antenna Analyzers

Time: 10am -12noon

Learn how Analyzers can be used for

- SWR measurements
- Smith Charts
- Coax Loss
- Cable Impedance
- Coax Length & Velocity Factor
- Measure Capacitance & Inductance

Location: Online -- Go To Meeting

Web Link: Class size limited --Registration Required - Contact:
education@rochesterham.org

Presenters: Larry Brightenfield, W2LB, Pete Schuch, WB2UAQ, and Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB.

Academy Recordings are available at
https://www.rochesterham.org/rara_academy.htm

Silent Key

Douglas E. Howard
KC2KNH
July 27, 2020

Silent Key

Dwight Braman Hill
K2KWK
August 5, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

With the two public service events for September canceled, MS ROC the Ride and Liftbridge Regatta, our next planned public service event will be Pumpkin Patrol.

Following is an update from Ed Wilkonski, K1EM about this event

Because of COVID-19 we have not had the opportunities to participate in Public Service activities this year, but we have an upcoming event where social distancing isn't a problem. COVID-19 has definitely affected how we live our lives. Hopefully the membership has been taking precautions and none have been infected. Let's keep it that way.

The following gentlemen and ladies participated in the 2019 Pumpkin Patrol: Roger Burkhart, David Crawford, Chris D and Maria, Brian Dubb, Carolyn Gauvin, Bill Holtz, Jack Kelly, Dean Keyser, Richard Koehn, Tim Magee, Dave Mitchell, Mike Moore, Chuck and Diane Rettig, Lynn Rosenberg, Bob Smith, Brett Staples, Jack Tripp, John Van Griethuysen, Ed Wilkonski, Tom Wood, Jean Louise, Jim Shevlin, and Jeff Ambrose

Unfortunately with all the volunteers, two bridges were unmanned and Mike Moore and Ed Wilkonski spent some time jumping between bridges.

According to my contact at the New York State Police, Pumpkin Patrol 2020 will happen this year. Since we will be in our own cars, social distancing should not be a problem

This year's activities take place on a Friday and Saturday night. I realize it requires a sacrifice on the participants part to give up 4 hours at the end of a week. I am appealing to the younger members of the club to consider participating. Some of our club members have been active in Pumpkin Patrol for thirty years and unfortunately we are not getting younger.

Be safe and let me know if you are interested in participating in Pumpkin Patrol 2020.

Contact Ed Wilkonski:

wingstwofly@rochester.rr.com

Please mark your calendars for our upcoming RARA Public Service Events

Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Friday & Saturday	Oct. 30-31, 2020
Holiday Science & Technology Days	Rochester Museum & Science Center	Monday - Wednesday	Dec. 28-30, 2020

ARTICLE VIDEOS

The June, July and August issue of the RAG include videos to accompany some of the articles..

This symbol is the link to the videos.



It would be great if you provide a video with your article, if it is appropriate for your article: demonstrating a project, close up of a build technique, operating a new mode, etc.

Please email the editor if you will provide a video with your article in the RAG.
editor@rochesterham.org

Rochester Amateur Radio Association

Letter From The Nominating Committee

August 13, 2020

Mr. Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK
Secretary, Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PO Box 93333
Rochester, NY 14692

Dear Karl Heinz and Members of RARA:
On behalf of the members of the Nominating Committee I am pleased to place the following names in nomination as Officers and Directors of the corporation for the 2020 – 2021 term.

President: Tim Barrett, K9VB
Vice-President: Brian O'Connor, KA2CGB
Secretary: Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK
Treasurer: Mike Moore, KC2NM

Directors: Tim Guyot, KB1POP
Tim Brown, WB2PAY
Dave Enright, KD2RER
George Lama, KC2OXJ
Scott Theis, W2LW
Don Vallone, KD2REU

This completes the work of the Nominating Committee. I wish to thank Frank Schramm, WB2PYD and Bill Springer, N2HYQ for their invaluable work in the committee and their help in preparing this report.

Sincerely,



Forest Shick, WA2MZG
Chairman, 2020-2021 Nominating Committee
Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

TIM BARRETT, K9VB CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Born and raised in the UK, I have lived in the Rochester area since 2004. I have had a lifelong interest in radio and electronics, first becoming licensed in the UK as G7NYA in 1987 and later as M0TIM. On moving to the US one of my first actions was to get my Extra ticket and become a member of RARA (Life member since 2006). My main interests are HF and restoring or repairing old test equipment, but I am also interested in the technical / theoretical side of the hobby.



We are fortunate to have such a great club in the Rochester area and I believe that the progress we have made recently in moving the club forward is a benefit to the Rochester area amateur radio community. I have served as Membership Secretary for the past six years and been on the Board of Directors for five years helping to organize RARA events.

I am now putting my name forward as candidate for President of RARA. While this is a challenging time for the club we have seen recently that there are new opportunities we can explore and I intend to carry forward the progress we have made in the past year.

BRIAN O'CONNOR, KA2CGB, CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

My father grew up during the Golden Age of radio, and was a businessman with Bendix, Zenith and Westinghouse. He taught me about the contributions of Marconi, Tesla and Armstrong. I credit him for my early interest in electronic technology: my Dad was my first Elmer.

Although first licensed in 1978, I was not very active in the hobby while working with radios, and became a more active ham following retirement. Upgraded to Extra in 2016. My modest shack has all-mode capability from 80m to 70cm. Member of ARRL, RARA, RDXA and RVHFG.

It has been an honor to serve the Club alongside the other members of your Board since I became RARA Treasurer in January 2017. I will now step back from that position in keeping with the term limits of RARA By-Laws, and am look-



ing forward to helping the new Treasurer get up-to-speed while I transition to new responsibilities.

I have also been serving as custodian of Club-owned radios and accessories, and have handled equipment donations to the Club and have helped manage equipment sales at our hamfest and auction. (The Club still has a lot of good stuff for the next Auction!)

Retired from Harris RF Communications after 30+ years where I helped customers implement complex radio systems from 100 kHz to 5 GHz, with stations from QRP to 100 kW, and including HF antennas from dipoles to mag-loops to rhombics and stacked log-periodic arrays. To be close to customers, my family and I lived in Europe for two years and in the Middle East for 10 years. Now empty-nesters, XYL Marion & I live in Perinton.

I like testing things such as radios, antennas and filters, and have been getting more involved in operating events such as Field Day and the New York QSO Party (NYQP). Outside of radio, I tinker with an old Fiat X-1/9 and follow Formula 1 auto racing.

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY

Two first names, and no middle name – my friends call me Karl Heinz.

Born and raised in Germany. From a young age on, I was fascinated by all things electrical. I started to take things apart that others were throwing out (TV sets, radios, anything with an electric motor I could get my hands on and so on). Eventually, I started to put those parts that I crudely took out of stuff back together to build other stuff. That got me on the path to becoming an electrical engineer. My first job after graduation was as a software engineer, and I never actually worked as an electrical engineer.

I worked for Kodak in Germany, and they moved me to Rochester - twice. In '94 I got my Tech+ license as N2XRQ. I made a few 5WPM contacts and then job and life had different plans for me and I put the radio away for more than 20 years. A couple of years ago, I took my radio out of storage, upgraded to Extra (now as K5KHK) loaded up my rain gutters and played around with digital weak signal modes. I've always enjoyed homebrewing (the electronic kind, but I've brewed beer a couple of times as well).

When I got elected to the RARA board two years ago, I said that I would like to be a champion for new hams. I've been active in the club's "Elmer's Corner" (while we were able to actually have it until the pandemic hit), participated in RARA Academies, and help out wherever I can to help get people on the air. Starting this fall, I am teaching the Tech class. I am currently serving as the club's secretary.



MIKE MOORE, KC2NM

CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

I have been a ham for over 50 years and have found it to be a great hobby! I received my Novice license at the age of 14 with the call sign of WN8ZPY in Southern Ohio. My first ham rig was a Heath HW-16. I graduated the next year to WA8ZPY and an HW-100. I had a lot of fun as a teenager working local stations, DX, and some net work. After High School, I earned a BSEE degree from the University of Cincinnati and while there worked as a Co-op for a gentleman that I knew quite well from 2 meter FM. I upgraded to Advanced in college. Following college, I moved to Rochester with my wife Susan to work for Xerox and picked up an MSEE degree from RIT. I joined RARA sometime in that period as WA2GSG. My career took a turn to sales and then automation software development working for myself. In 1995, I studied for the Amateur Extra license at the RARA prep course and passed the Extra Test with the callsign KC2NM. My current radio interests include DSTAR and the other digital modes. I retired from Exelis in 2014 as a test engineer to pursue my hobbies which include sailing, biking, computers, and cooking. Our two children live with their families here in Rochester. I serve as the RARA Public Service Event coordinator and I am currently a RARA director.



TIM GUYOT, KB1POP

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I got into amateur radio during college at RIT in 2007. Thanks to Dave Snyder (KC2REO) and Jim Stefano (W2COP) I had a variety of experiences with the club station, K2GXT, and public service. I enjoyed working on antennas on the roof of the Student Alumni Union, and learning about repeaters in the shack on Ellingson. Public service gave me practical experience helping others and working on directed nets. I earned my general-class license in 2008, but didn't get into HF until 2018.



If elected, this will be my fifth year serving on the board. I've served as Secretary, VP, and two years as President. I've also been heavily involved in producing the last three Hamfests. As a director I will continue to work on the hamfest as well as our various club events, especially those that involve operating. I look forward to the opportunity to serve another year.

TIM BROWN, WB2PAY

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I have been a board member for 3 years. During my time on the board, I have focused on Education programs and RARA Academy workshops. As an Elmer, I strive to share my experiences with other hams so they may better enjoy the hobby.

Working RARA Public Service events provides me opportunities to use my skills and promote Amateur Radio to the public.



Licensed in 1962, ham radio led me to a career in electronics which began at Sylvania Electronics in Batavia. When Sylvania moved south, I came to Rochester with RCA Service Company. I retired from Kodak's Electronic Services group which supported Kodak Research Laboratories.

I learned Morse Code at age 15. Morse Code later became a special skill I used as a Morse Intercept Operator for the Army Security Agency. Presently, I am a CW Elmer with the RXCW Group. I mentor hams who wish to develop their Morse Code skills.

I enjoy working on the board and am seeking re-election to the Board of Directors.

DAVE ENRIGHT, K3WHD

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I have been with the club for 2 years now and on the board for 1 year. I have enjoyed and learned a lot in this short time and like helping others when I can. I have gotten into FT8 with the poor band conditions big time for right now. Have built a few antennas and enjoy getting to work on the different bands. With some time on my hands and before COVID-19 hit hard, I was able to pass my EXTRA exam, now I can help even more on the VE team. I'm running again to be a member of the board.



GEORGE LAMA, KC2OXJ

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I describe myself as a helper, a fixer, a teacher, and eternally curious as to how and why things work.

I have been involved in tech from a very early age, growing up in an electronics repair shop and store which gave me every opportunity to tinker, disassemble, electrify myself a few times, and even hold onto the wrong end of a hot soldering iron, all before the age of 7. I started in ham radio in the 80s as a teen (cut my teeth with CB, then got into amateur radio like my dad), and was licensed as HI8-GLL while we lived overseas. Moving back to the states for college in the late 80s, I managed to get my Novice license (KB4SDK) but college meant other priorities and challenges to focus on. So life happened and it wasn't until 2005 that I obtained my Tech License after relocating from Florida to the Rochester area. Since obtaining my General license in 2019, I've become an avid digital mode user, logging contacts with all US states and over 100 countries with a couple of end-fed wire antennas slung over a tree, and loving every part of the process!

I joined RARA in 2018 and have thoroughly enjoyed the great variety of events, activities and educational opportunities our very active club offers. I served as a member of the 2019 RARA Hamfest Production Team/Committee Member and I'm already looking forward to Ham Fest 2021.



Although a techie at heart, it's teaching and helping others that brings it home for me. As a Teacher of Special Education, Technical Corporate Trainer, Technical Instructional Designer, and Manager of Information Technology for not for profit social services organizations, I've had many opportunities to integrate technology into learning and into helping others. My hope is to contribute to our organization in any way I can and to help our wonderful organization continue to grow and thrive in every way

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am currently an Extra Class amateur and Vice President of RARA. In the last three years I have served first as a member of the Board of Directors for RARA, and then as Vice President, RARA Academy co-manager/instructor and club webmaster. I hope to continue to help the club by continuing to serve as a director and Webmaster. My primary goal is to support amateur radio through club activities in education, web development and operating opportunities.



In the last year it has been wonderful to be able to help and participate in both club and operating activities even though we have had to manage the club through the continuing COVID risks and restrictions. My goal is to help RARA continue to support hams and our hobby in the Rochester area.

I have been working with electronics from a very young age (playing with lights and batteries at the age of four). As I grew up I quickly realized there was a wealth of goodies in the electronics that adults would throw out. One of my early radio projects (today referred to as a hack) was building a transmitter from a conventional AM five-tube radio. I collected equipment while learning and building as much as possible with radio and TV. This included improving the front end of various TV receivers to further my fledgling DX hobby receiving UHF stations in Iowa and Wisconsin from my home in Minneapolis. By the way, I had no idea what atmospheric ducting was at the time.

At the end of the 60s, my father introduced me to transistor logic and 7400 series ICs. The computer became the next area of interest and, in fact, from mostly my father's design, I built a working 16-bit computer strictly from 7400 series TTL devices. This was right as the Intel 8080 was released.

While I have only recently been minted as a ham, I have been listening, building and playing since I was a child (I still have my 1974 ARRL Handbook).

In real life (where you make a living), I work as a Software Developer and Business Manager for a local software company that develops, sells and supports products worldwide to help public corporations and mutual funds create and file documents to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. I have been working with the analysis and processing of text, HTML, SGML and XML for the past 30 years which has lead me into the development and support of GUI interfaces, communication protocols and internet functionality. Prior to that, I worked with hardware and software for data stream processing. I have also developed a

couple of assemblers as well as several script languages.

DON VALLONE, KD2REU

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I've only recently discovered the excitement of the ham radio hobby. I was first licensed in 2019, and currently hold my General license. I discovered RARA in 2017 when I attended a weather spotter training session that was open to the general public. I've always had an interest in radio – collecting antique radios and phonographs since I was a kid – and I especially love radio history! I'm a long-time member of the AWA, and more recently XARC and RVHFG. I've participated in two ARRL Field Days, and I'm also an active member of the ARES/RACES group, employing my experience as a trained meteorologist and radio communicator.



I'm a retired software and systems engineer, having worked in both the document services industry with Xerox, and the medical device industry with Johnson & Johnson and Ortho Clinical Diagnostics. I also worked in secondary education for a bit, teaching Earth Science and Astronomy.

I enjoy both HF and VHF communication with my ICOM IC-7300 & IC-9700. I especially love playing on digital modes FT8 & FT4! I'm an alumnus of both Dayton HamVention and Orlando HamCation. I spend part of my free time managing several websites and YouTube channels. I've featured many videos of my burgeoning ham radio adventures on my "Ham on the Air with KD2REU" YouTube channel – including my trips to various ARRL sponsored events. I've also volunteered my time to RARA over the past year as a video producer for education and on-the-air events in conjunction with helping to manage the RARA YouTube channel. I am currently in the slow process of learning CW, and also gearing up to participate in "Parks On The Air" as I begin to assemble my mobile radio gear!

I look forward to continuing my association with the Rochester Amateur Radio Association in an even broader capacity on the Board of Directors to help welcome new members and expand awareness and appreciation of the radio hobby.

PROCEDURE FOR THE ON-LINE RARA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Hello,
We wanted to provide some extra information so that you'd know what to expect at this year's on-line business meeting.

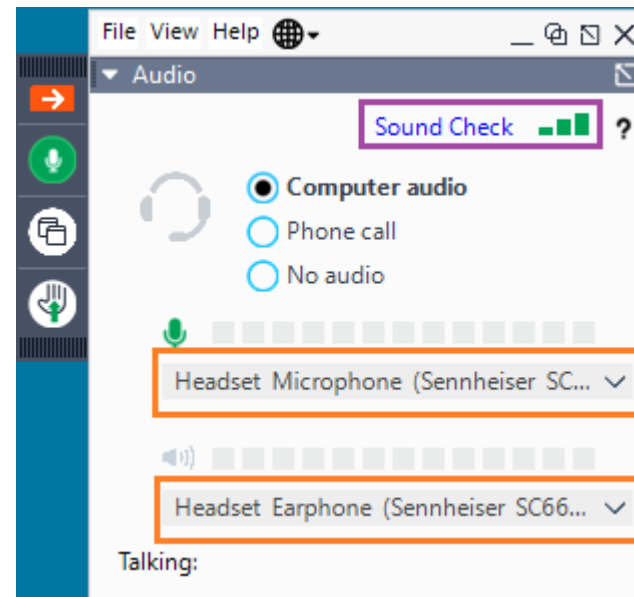
While attendees are encouraged to speak during the meeting, it will not be required to participate. You will however want to be sure that you can hear the various presenters.

When you first join the meeting, you may be presented with just this small control panel.

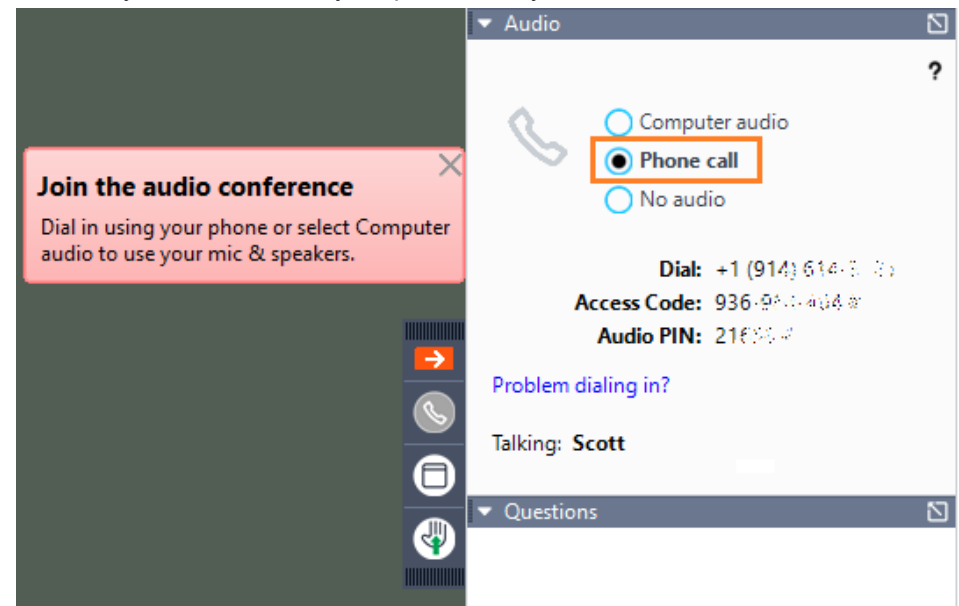


To see the rest of the features, click the red/orange arrow at the top to expand the panel.

Once expanded, make sure that you have the audio device you want to use selected. (See orange boxes) If you're having trouble, select the sound check (purple box) and you'll be presented with additional audio options.



In the event that you still have trouble, select the phone call button and you'll be presented with a phone number, access code, and PIN so that you can dial-in to hear the audio. Please be sure to enter both the access code and PIN as this is how the system associates your phone with your web-connection.



We will complete the business meeting before moving on to elements of our regular meeting. The business meeting agenda is:

- Count of Members
- Approve 2019 Minutes
- Election
- Dues
- Treasurer's Report
- Close

Each of these items will have a survey question in the webinar. They will look like this.

QUICKPOLL

Accept the slate of director and officer nominations as presented... *(We will insert the list from the committee for the meeting)*

Please select one:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Abstain
- ☐ Not a Member

Submit

If you are not a member, please select "Not a member". This helps with the live calculation of the votes.

Polls will be held open for 60-90 seconds to allow you to respond.

Once you select an option and click submit, you will see your selected option and the submit button will change to text.

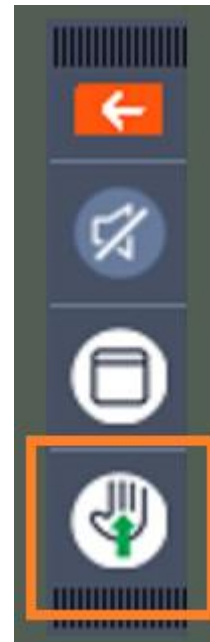
presented... *(We will insert the list from the committee for the meeting)*

Please select one:

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Abstain
- ☐ Not a Member

Your poll answers have been submitted.

If you have trouble or need to speak at any time during the meeting, please use the raise hand button in the control panel and we will unmute you.



You can also type in the questions field in the attendee panel.

Questions

[Enter a question for staff]

Send

If you have questions about the business meeting, please contact president@rochesterham.org and I'll work with the board to make sure we get you an answer.

RXCWG

CW ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE

The end is near!

The CW Achievement Challenge ends at 23:59 on August 31, 2020 UTC. Only a few days remain to get more contacts in your log.

NAME	CALL SIGN	POINTS
Reiner	N2PEZ	79
Luke	K2DIT	17
Forest	WA2MZG	38
Karl Heinz	K5KHK	478
Todd	N2TMS	2
John	AC2RL	411
John	N2JSA	1
Dave	WA2HOY	28
Nick	KD2RHU	16

QCX

BUILD IT PROJECT UPDATE

K2OID, Bob Karz

I bought the 40M QCX+ and case which finally came a few weeks ago.

The assembly instructions were quite good, but it helps to be "awake" during building. I had two construction errors. I put one of the trim potentiometers in the wrong place and I neglected to solder the encoder ground. Due to the first error, my printed circuit board now has a few wire jumpers. The encoder soldering problem, however, was easy to track down and fix.

I put it on the air a few days ago and and got Jack, KE0VPG, in Rochester, MN on a single call. He also was using a QCX. I plan to use it tonight in the monthly NAQCC sprint.

Observations:

- There are lots of parts to this kit. I took my time, and it took about 20 hours to assemble

- The case is very high quality extruded aluminum with plenty of room above the PCB for a battery or whatever. It looks great.
- There is lots of functionality using only 2 buttons and an encoder (the 3rd button is a power switch)
- Lots of features and jumpers all over the PCB to make customization easy
- Electrical assembly was straight forward. Mechanical assembly (the case) was a little less so. I had trouble with the push buttons binding against the face plate

I've ordered a battery pack (4 - 3.7 volt Lithium Ion cells) and charging controller that will fit easily inside the case.

I'm looking forward to portable operation.

AC2RL, John Hall

Built it. It was an easy build. Great instructions. Only goofed once, interchanging two very different resistors. Still don't know how that happened. Winding the toroid was the trickiest part, and that wasn't very tricky. Tip: a blunt-tip embroidery needle with a big eye is a great tool for winding magnet wire on small toroids.

Used it for Field Day with a sealed lead-acid "motorcycle" battery and an improvised dipole. I used the QCX's excellent CW reader to help during FD so I have not counted those Q's for our CW challenge.

Since then it has sat in a box. I intend to hook it up to a GPS module and play with WSPR, and maybe sometime take it out to a park. Anybody know if local parks get grumpy about people shooting ropes up in trees with air cannons?

Bob Karz also suggested I try using it in one of the monthly NAQCC sprints. Yipe! I just checked and there's one of those 8:30 to 10:30 TONIGHT. I'll have to see if I can get it together to work it.

W2RMB, Rodger Burkhart

The QCX plus has a case available but the old QCX does not so I ordered an extruded aluminum case from BAMA in Germany 3 months ago. I finally checked on it and they said the carrier they use DHL, is not shipping packages to the US. So I ordered a 3D printed plastic case. Received it and maybe install it this weekend. I have not transmitted yet but receive works very well. Mine is 20M.

WA2MZG, Forest Shick

I have made a few contacts with my QCX 40M.

I finally received my QCX 80M but I am making it into a QCX 6M. I have been able to receive on 6M from a signal generator.

Next step is to get the TX working. I have all the parts, now to sit down and do the work.

THE BANDS ARE DEAD!

KARL HEINZ KREMER, K5KHK

We are at the solar minimum. Common wisdom claims that this means polishing the knobs on your radios, dusting the antennas, and other maintenance work around the shack. It definitely does not mean that you can make contacts all day long on a wide variety of bands... Or does it?

Here is a report about my recent POTA activation of K-2068, Hamlin Beach State Park, on July 6th and hopefully it will help you to re-evaluate what solar minimum means.

Susan and I were heading out to Hamlin Beach on a Monday morning to not have to deal with the weekend crowds. We arrived there just minutes after 9am. The person at the entrance booth was still setting up, so everybody got in for free. I was ready to wave my Empire Pass at the pass reader, but was robbed of the opportunity to show my support for NY parks.

Hamlin Beach has different beach areas. Even though beaches were closed, there is usually a lot more activity in the areas close to the entrance, and it goes down as you continue to move away from it. We scoped out area 4 and found a good spot under a tree with view of the lake, but decided to drive to area 5, which turned out to provide an even better spot to set up. We had two picnic tables under a tree, close by restrooms and a beautiful view of the lake.



I set up my FT-857D powered by a 12AH Bioenno battery and my Wolf River Coil (WRC) antenna with the 17ft whip. Unlike for my previous activations, I used six 33ft radials (I usually use only three).

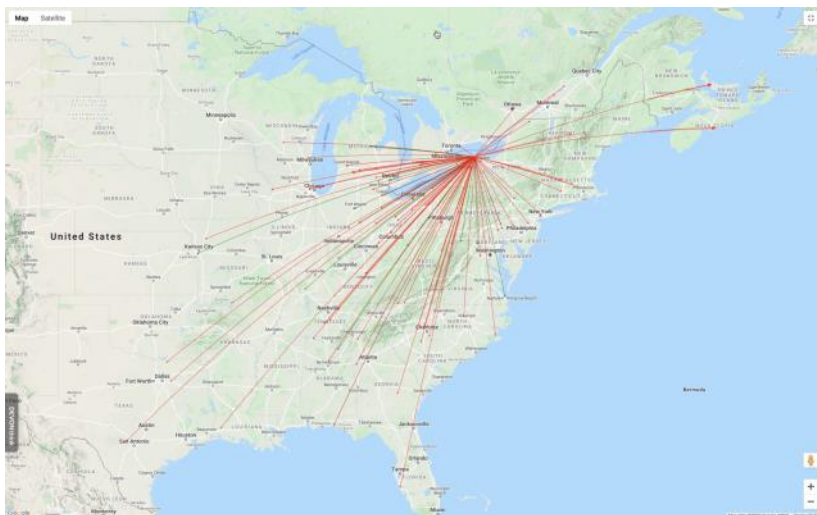
I always start on 40m SSB – that's my bread and butter band for both activations and for chasing parks. It's usually reliable, and it turned out that way again. I put 42 QSOs in less than 45 minutes in the log. The plan was to just stick around at this park and not "rove" to any other parks on that day, so I switched to 20m for 23 more QSOs. We were still not going anywhere, so it was time to try something new and find out how 17m is doing. I shortened the whip to make it resonant on 17m and started calling CQ – and somebody answered. Yay! 7 contacts later I ask myself if 15m would work too... What better way to find out than to just tune the antenna to 15m and call CQ again - 8 contacts.



So, what about 12m? 4 QSOs. 10m? 7 QSOs! By this time, I had QSOs on six bands. There is a POTA award for making contacts on 10 different bands from 10 different parks. I was getting close, so it was time to put the bar up a bit higher: Let's try 6m. That's where things all of a sudden were not that simple anymore. All QSOs so far were SSB with two CW contacts thrown in when I answered other parks calling CQ. On 6m nothing worked on SSB, so I try CW. After calling for a long time, I finally get somebody from Kentucky to answer and swap grids with me. Yay! That's 7 bands if you are counting. The only band I have not yet tried that would give almost certain results is 30m, so the antenna got expanded again and 12 QSOs later I had 8 bands in my log. The Wolf River Coil version I am using also allows for 80m, so after some tuning of the antenna I was calling CQ on the CW portion of the band: Three more QSOs for the log. I am now up to 9 bands. 160m is very likely not an option, so I am not even trying

that. But what about 2m? I did not have a dedicated VHF radio with me and certainly no 2m antenna, so I connected the WRC to the VHF/UHV antenna connector on the radio and tried to match it. I tried to call on 146.52Mhz FM without success. Unfortunately, I don't have any repeaters programmed in my FT-857D and cell phone coverage at Hamlin Beach is bad for AT&T customers, and my text to Tim WB2PAY to ask to meet me on 146.52 got stuck and never made it out. I also did not have a computer with me to try FT8, or a satellite antenna, so the only other option was CW. I tried to call CQ on the 2m CW calling frequency, but without luck.

So, I left the park with 116 QSOs on 9 bands in the log and I am only one band away from reaching my first park for the 10 band award. Next time! Listen for me on VHF.



Yes, we are at solar minimum, but it's still possible to make contacts, not just on the usual suspects as bands go, but if you have somebody listening for you, you can have some serious fun even on the higher HF bands.

Update: After I got home again, submitted my logs and wrote a draft of this article, I had one of those face palm moments: There is another HF band that I did not try: 60m – so a couple of weeks later, we went back to Hamlin Beach, and I was able to add a few 60m contacts for this particular park. On that day, the higher bands were not open, so it would have been hard to repeat what had been possible earlier. Last weekend, we stayed at Letchworth State Park, and I now have two parks activated using 10 bands. It again took me two days to get to that mark, but it worked.

LAPTOP STATION

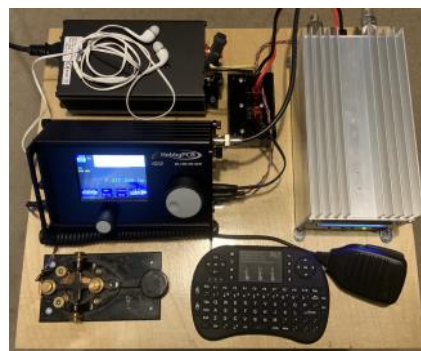
FOREST SHICK, WA2MZG



It has been a nice summer to sit on the porch and relax. Although, I need to be occupied. I could read a book - done that! Or listen to music - done that! Watch the birds in the bird bath - done that! Take a nap - done that!

I can always go into my shack and operate or work on a project but then this very nice weather slips away and all of a sudden it is snowing.

Wouldn't it be nice to get on the air from my front porch. Great idea - but - then I have to bring all the equipment out, connect it up and then put it all back in the shack when I am done.



Along comes the Laptop Station.

- HobbyPCB IQ32 5W HF XCVR
- HobbyPCB RS-UV3 Speaker Mic
- HobbyPCB HR50 50W Amp and ATU
- MFJ-4115 Power Supply
- SOTA Beams 4 Way Power Distribution block
- J-47 Straight Key
- Rii i8 Mini Wireless Keypad

The only thing missing is a clock.



Putting it all together. I started with a 24" x 24" piece of plywood. Put all the components on it and kept moving them around until I had a nice tight but spacious layout. Then I allowed 1" border all around. The station measures 17" x 17" x 6". When finished, to my surprise, it fit on the shelf I had on the porch and my lap.

I left room to replace the J47 with a Bencher paddle and the MFJ power supply with a Bioenno 12V 15A battery.

The major components are screwed to the board so the station is easy to move. With the J-47 screwed to the board, there is no slipping and sliding while sending CW.

In the first 2 hours I made 8 SSB (POTA) and 1 CW contact.

SHARING A VIDEO TO SUPPLEMENT A RAG ARTICLE IS SO EASY!

HERE'S HOW...

DON VALLONE, KD2REU

A few months ago, the editor of the RAG introduced a new concept – providing video links with technical articles to supplement the content of the article with a multi-media experience. Anyone can still submit an article for publication in the RAG without video content, but the addition of a short video to accompany your article is both helpful and engaging to the reader.

Why Video?

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Well, if that's true, then a video is worth a thousand pictures...or a million words...or...well, you get the point! A video is easy to watch and can be utilized to more effectively demonstrate anything, such as a process, that is difficult to show with only still pictures or words. And let's face it, when we are trying to explain how to do something there never seems to be enough appropriate words to clearly get your points across. And everyone has varying degrees of experience with various aspects of the ham radio hobby. Consequently, some readers of your article will be able to grasp the topic entirely without even a picture because they've "been there and done that". However, there are many others whose eyes may become glazed over as their minds wander off into a "safe place" after becoming overwhelmed by a topic that they can't quite relate to or picture in their mind's eye. Enter the companion video!

How to Record a Video

You don't need any fancy equipment to record a video. You can use an old digital camera or your smart phone. We're not looking for a Ken Burns documentary or a Cecile B. DeMille production! You don't even need a tripod unless you're comfortable working with one and need your hands free. You don't need to be seen in the video unless you want to be. The idea is to point and shoot at your subject (radio, circuit board...whatever) just to show the readers what you're talking about in your article. Your article may feature a tutorial, your work bench, your shack, a collection, or literally anything you think someone might be interested in. It can be as short or long as you like (a typed page or two is more than enough in most situations). You can supplement your article with a couple of photographs or help make any part of your article "come to life" with a companion video. A link to the video will be added by the editor to your article when the RAG is published. You can record multiple videos if it makes sense for the content you are discussing.

Tips and Tricks

Your videos should be short in nature. Long form videos (longer than 10 or 15 minutes) are more appropriate for the RARA YouTube channel. If you have a long video that you would like us to host on the YouTube channel, feel free to contact myself or Scott Theis and we would be thrilled to showcase it to our ham

community. Rag article video files may be hosted elsewhere (in which case you can include a link to the video), or in most instances you will simply send your raw video directly to us and we will take care of the rest (more on that in a bit).

The most important considerations for recording your video should be sound and lighting. You may not necessarily need sound with your video unless you are speaking or demonstrating something that makes sound an essential part of the demo. In that case, you will want to make sure that volume is at a medium level and your phone/camera is fairly close to the subject (not at the other side of the room). If you are talking in the video (although you don't have to), speak robustly and clearly within arm's length of the phone/camera. MOST IMPORTANT is lighting. Recording outdoors or near open windows in the daytime will always provide the best lighting. If you are recording indoors, try to record in an area with natural daylight. If you must record at night or in the deep, dark recesses of your basement shack, make sure you have strong lights near your subject. You should ideally have multiple light sources if possible (two or three) so that light may flood your subject area from multiple directions. This will reduce dark shadows and make colors as natural as possible. On the other hand, if your subject is an LCD computer or radio screen don't have a light source pointed directly at it or you'll pick up more of a reflection and glare from the light than the source you are trying to capture.

Videos recorded on your phone or digital camera are typically saved automatically as AVI, MPEG, or MP4. We can work with almost whatever video format your device captures!

How to Get Your Video to the RARA Editors

If you are using a digital camera, you will have to connect the camera to a computer and copy the video file onto the computer (take note of the location you save it to so you can easily navigate to it later). It may be helpful to save the file with a more descriptive name, especially if you are submitting multiple videos that pertain to different portions of your article and should be watched in a particular sequence. You may also want to transfer video files from your phone in the same way, but you can also simply send us your video file directly from your phone as long as it has access to your email.

Once you have the files saved, you will send them to the RARA Rag Editor attached to an email along with your article. Your email should be sent to editor@rochesterham.org.

We look forward to receiving your article and publishing it along with a fun video in a future edition of the RARA Rag!

This symbol is the clue that there is a video to go with the article. Click the symbol or associated picture or link to see the video.



RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago, September 2000

All of the Amateur world was a twitter about the newest digital mode available using free software and a standard computer found in nearly all modern ham shacks of the day. Peter Fournia W2SKY, RARA VP and Program Chairman, wrote to invite all area hams to the first RARA meeting of the year where we all learned about PSK-31 from Professor Bill Hopkins, AA2YV. At that time RARA meetings were held at the Henrietta Fire hall, the first Friday of each month except July and August, at 8:00 p.m. Also covering the front page was an announcement, with program information, of the Buffalo Hamfest scheduled for September 16, at the Erie County Fairgrounds. This article, written by the Buffalo Hamfest General Chairman, Harold Smith, K2HC (sk), told of the just available 50,000 square foot covered exhibit hall where the Flea Market would be held. Harold, the experienced General Chmn of the Rochester Hamfest, was sought after by the Buffalo Club to run the neighboring hamfest while they reorganized. Harold and a small group of local hams formed a committee and successfully ran the Buffalo event for several years. Your new President Keith Freeberg, N2BEL (sk), must have burned mid-night oil in preparing his "The Prez Sez" article that stretched over three pages in this ten page issue. Keith told of new directions for the club where attracting and keeping new members was a priority. Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, was not only our scheduled speaker in September, but he also penned an interesting account of another of his many trips to Europe carrying QRP CW rigs, this time 2.5 watts on 30 meters to Berlin. Judy Stonehill, N2KXS (sk), continued writing her monthly YL Forum. This time she wrote the saga of Carolyn, 7P8BB, from Lesotho, Africa, who, with her Doctor husband operated a much needed medical clinic there. The article on several occasions cited RARA's George Platteter, AA2FO (sk), for his long range help and dedication in keeping her station on-the-air. It was nice to see Lloyd Cave's, WB2EFU (N2PU), by-line again with his "RagChew" column covering miscellaneous local ham radio gatherings. This time Lloyd covered RARA's local summer events complete with photos of kids having fun. Hardly gets any better. Ed Gable, K2MP, continued writing his DX/Contesting Report wherein he reported really nice DX stations were logged by local RDXA members such as: KH5K Kingman, KH6ND/KH5 on Palmyra, BQ9P, 4W, TX0, and XZ0A. The Rochester VHF Group finished 2nd place in the 2000 January ARRL VHF Contest with Multi-Op K2PA pulling 400k points. Returning was Tim Magee, WB2KAO, Licensing Class Director, announcing plans for the Fall session of RARA's code and theory classes. This year instructors will be Tim on code, Bill Kasperkowski, WB2SXY on General theory and Norm Turner WB2LQB on Technician Theory. Tim made a special note to thank Tim Stoffel, NS9E, for his years of service to the License Classes upon his moving to Nevada for business. With regret it was announced that James Miller N2IMS, Clement Becker KB2HYP and Addison (Sax) Ringler W2SAW were reported as Silent Keys. Sax Ringler was a highly respected old timer from the post WW2 era of ham radio. He was a superb CW operator, DX'er and took much pleasure in working for obscure operating awards. He and his wife also loved to travel in Europe. So one cold Winter evening in Northern Italy, I'm sitting in the barracks

and the Orderly comes in and says "Gable, you have a visitor at the front gate." What..? So I got the Company driver, cleaned snow off the jeep and we drove to the MP shack at the Army Base entrance, and there was Sax Ringer in his trademark gray suit and red tie. "Hi Ed, I just stopped by to say hello," Sax shouted to this much surprised GI from Rochester. The only place I could take this rather distinguished visitor was to the closed Mess Hall, via the back door, where I met a friend of mine. (Hint, always make friends with the Mess Sergeant and the Supply Clerk no matter where you're stationed) The Mess crew was given orders to serve us the GOOD coffee and the FRESH pie and Sax and I had a really great, memorable evening. There were no Want Ads in this issue, however Marykay Vesco, KC2DPG, a Life, Accident and Health Insurance Agent was a commercial advertiser.



the RARA RAG

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ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 53 SEPTEMBER 2000 NO. 1

PSK31 Demo At September 8th Meeting

Peter Fournia, W2SKY

A hands-on demonstration of the new and popular digital mode, PSK31 will start this season's meeting program. Bill Hopkins, AA2YV has prepared this informative program that will have you hear, see and feel PSK31! (We'll leave the taste to your imagination.) Bill will describe this digital mode, make HF contacts with it and give you the information that you need to get it going in your shack.

PSK31 has rapidly gained popularity in the past year because of its simplicity. Most hams have the essentials in their shack... their transceiver and their computer sound card. You can make it run in your shack with a little free software, interconnecting wires and some simple experimentation.

Another reason for its rapid growth is the intrinsic reliability under adverse band conditions. People have stated that they got the message when they couldn't hear the signal. PSK31 is rapidly becoming the preferred mode for reliable digital HF communications.

Come to the RARA meeting September 8, 8:00 PM, to get your first hand experience with PSK31. The meeting location is at the Henrietta Fire Hall at 3129 East Henrietta Rd. about 0.3 miles South of the Dome Arena entrance.

Buffalo Hamfest September 16

Harold Smith, K2HC, General Chairman

The 11th annual Buffalo Hamfest and Computer Show combined with the ARRL Western New York Section Convention is scheduled for Saturday, September 16, at the Erie County Fairgrounds in Hamburg, New York. The event is operated by RARA's hamfest committee. It is provided as a service to the amateur radio community in Western New York. The event attracts as many as 2,500 people from New York, neighboring states and Canada. Tickets are \$6.00 each. There is no parking charge.

NEW THIS YEAR:

- This year, the huge 50,000 sq. ft. International Agri-Center at the Erie County Fairgrounds will be turned into this area's largest world class electronics flea market. Tables to demonstrate and sell wares are available for the incredibly low price of only \$10.00 each. The low price is the same for all participants including merchants of amateur radio equipment as well as computer dealers. The huge indoor area protects everyone from the unpredictable weather we experience.
- An outdoor tailgate flea market area will be available to participants as well. Parking spaces in the outdoor area cost only \$5.00 each.
- The event opens to all at 6:00 a.m. Saturday, September 16. Indoor and outdoor vendors may set up Friday afternoon, September 15 at no additional cost.
- Programs are scheduled to start at 10 a.m. Brennan Price, N4QX, Field and Regulatory Correspondent at the ARRL will tell about the ARRL Field Organization. In addition, he will cover the OO (Official Observer) program. That deals with how OO's are selected and why they do what they do. In addition, there will be an ARRL Forum with Atlantic Division ARRL Director, Bernie Fuller, N3EFN.

The site is easy to find. Take the New York Thruway, (I-90) to Buffalo. Continue on the Thruway to exit 56. After paying your Thruway dues, turn right, then immediately turn left at the

continued on page 6

RARA Meeting September 8, 2000

Henrietta Fire Hall,
3129 E. Henrietta Rd.

PSK31 Demo

Presented by Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

The big news heading this issue was the loss of our meeting hall, the Monroe County Farm and Home Center, on Highland Avenue, that hosted RARA for some fifteen years. Coming through in our sudden need were our friends at Gleason Works who hosted our September meeting with very little notice. The program for the evening was offered by the RG & E, with Mr. Frank Orienter, speaking on energy sources today and alternative energy for the future. Bruce Kelley W2ICE (sk), RARA Historian, wrote to announce that this RARA season represented their 50th year, having been started in 1931. New officers for the 80/81 season were President Otto Bluntzer WB2RJB, Vice-President Don Drennon W2EBF, Secretary Dave Coleman N2AOB and Gil Chapin WB2UTI as Treasurer. Outgoing RARA President Alan Komenski AC2K, was awarded a farewell dinner upon his departure for points West. Len Gessin WA2ZNC, was appointed to fill in the RARA Board position of outgoing member Alan Komenski AC2K. Membership Chairman Bob Erskine W2NVZ (sk), reported a record breaking RARA paid membership at 834. Not doing quite so well was the treasury report where the total balance was only \$111.03. Reported summer activity included a RARA Field Day held at Brockport's Northampton Park, the STPR Road Rally with 53 Rochester hams participating and providing communications for the Scotch Bonnet yacht race. During all of this activity volunteers, under the leadership of Ed Holdsworth N2EH (sk), found time to install a 65 foot tower and three element tri-band yagi at the RARA Club station, K2JD, at the IOLA Complex. N2EH, this time wearing his Head of the RARA Licensing classes, hat, also announced a change to the classes where Novice and General classes will be held but once a year but in an extended format. The extra time will be used to concentrate on operating techniques, equipment selection and other practical instructions to make sure newbies get on the air. Monroe County Emergency Coordinator George Negus K2OIU, announced a simulated emergency test (SET) which will concentrate on hospital communications. Looking to expand, the guys and gals that put on the Elmira Hamfest reached out to the RARA crowd and offered a special two dollar gate ticket. Writing for the Rochester Radio Repeater Association was Frank Cannan N2AFP, who told that their next meeting would be a FM clinic held at RF Communications and hosted by Ron Jakubowski K2RJ. From the Want Ads you could buy a complete OSCAR antenna system; two yagis, AZ-EL rotors, masts, coax and phasing lines for small money from Ed K2MP. JR Amateur Radio at 1185 Scottsville Road, had a full page Ad offering used equipment from Yaesu, Kenwood, Drake, Heath and more.

The RARA RAG

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SEPTEMBER 5th MEETING: "ENERGY" at Gleason

Our RaRa Meeting on September 5th will feature a program from Rochester Gas and Electric Company to be presented by Mr. Frank Orienter. The title will be "Energy Sources Today; Alternate Energy for the Future" and will be supplemented by slides, a movie, and discussion with the members.

We are no longer able to hold meetings at the Farm and Home Center on Highland Avenue. *Do not* go there expecting to find RaRa, as the entire facility has been rented for every weekend, and Friday night for a whole year. We are looking for a centrally located meeting spot. If you have an idea for one please get hold of Don Drennan, Vice-President. All ideas are welcomed, whether a place is temporary or permanent. So be advised that each RaRa meeting may occur in a different spot each month this year. But none will be held at the Farm and Home Center anymore.

The gavel will fall on the 1980/81 season at 8 p.m. on September 5th. Come see your old buddies. Come see our new tee shirt. Come to see where your future electrons might be coming from. Come see us!

1981: RaRa's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Bruce Kelley, W2ICE

Fifty years ago was a low point in amateur radio. We were just entering the Great Depression. The average amateur was still using a regenerative receiver and self-excited oscillator transmitter with little hope of owning a factory-made piece of equipment.

Contrary to the principle of strength in unity, Rochester's ham activity was divided into two overlapping groups. The story of how one big club (R.A.R.A.) was formed will be told in future issues of the RAG by Ken Gardner, WBGN, our first secretary.

September RaRa at

Gleason Recreation Center
1044 University Avenue
Rochester, New York

"No Further Meetings at Highland Avenue"
Do not go to the Farm and Home Center!

RaRa is Moving

LICENSE CLASS

by Ed Holdsworth, N2EH

The Novice licensing classes will start Monday, September 22, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. They will be held, as usual, in the County Office Building located at 350 E. Henrietta Road.

The Novice course will only be offered once this year but with an expanded program. The General course will be held only once this year, starting after January 1st, but will also have an expanded program. The first session of the Novice course will run from September to the end of December and will lead to the Novice license. The second session will start in early February and will concentrate on operating procedures and selection and operation of radio equipment.

Those interested can register at the September meeting or by contacting Ed Holdsworth, N2EH, at 624-1929 evenings or 546-2700 ext 3304 days.

ELMIRA HAMFEST INVITATION

The ticket chairman for the Elmira Hamfest got us on the air recently to invite Rochester area hams for their hamfest on September 27th at the Chemung County Fairgrounds. Hamfest hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition to equipment displays there will be both indoor and outdoor flea markets to take care of our famous upstate weather. Tickets in advance are \$2.00. Tickets at the gate are \$3.00. Contact John Breese, WA2FJM, for complete details, at 340 West Avenue, Horseheads, New York 14845.

VE TEAM

RARA (Laurel VE affiliation) is not offering testing until at least September.

For remote testing please see hamstudy.org and search on the page for "remote" or "online".

LARC (Lancaster Amateur Radio Club) is also offering testing.

Please continue to check either the RARA webpage or Laurel VE page at <https://www.laurelvec.com/index.php?team=RARA> for the latest information.

The VE team is asking the membership if they know of and have confirmed availability of a large room that can accommodate up to 20 socially distanced persons with tables and chairs.

If you have an area that meets the following criteria contact Don Kiser at (585) 613-1035 (Voice/Text) or dkiser100@gmail.com

- Available on a Saturday (preferably 3rd Saturday)
- Adequate shelter (heated)
- Adequate parking
- Tables, chairs (or possibly RARA can rent them and have them delivered)

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Webster	harryw7872@gmail.com

- Space for up to 20 socially distanced persons
- All persons must be contained within a single viewable space (not multiple rooms)

We have exhausted our search of all Monroe County meeting areas including (not a full list):

- Monroe County Parks (there extenuating circumstances that make scheduling difficult)
- Monroe County Libraries
- Monroe County Banks
- Religious Organizations
- Academic Institutions
- Private Businesses

I would prefer that you not simply reply with "Have you tried X?" Most likely, I have. If you think there's an organization please call them first to confirm, then call me.

Don Kiser - AC2EV
RARA Board member
VE Team Leader
585-613-1035

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

RaRa CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

September 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 RTTYOps Weeksprint Phone Fray	2 RaRa Monthly Mtg ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7pm CWops Mini-CWT Test VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest UKEICC 80M Contest G3ZQS Straght Key Contest	3 RaRa BoD 6:30pm ONLINE ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm G3ZQS Straght Key Contest SKCC Sprint(Europe) NRAU 10M Activity NCCC Sprint	4 G3ZQS Straight Key Contest	5 All Asian DX Contest, Phone Wake Up! QRP Sprint RSGB SSB Field Day IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day CO QSO Party AGCW Straight Key Party PODXS 070 Club 80M Sprint
6 All Asian DX Contest, Phone RSGB SSB Field Day IARU Region 1 SSB Field Day CO TN QSO Parties PODXS 070 Club 80M Sprint	7 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm RSGB 80M Autumn Series, SSB MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint WW Sideband Activity Contest ARS Spartan Sprint	8 Phone Fray MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint RTTYOps Weeksprint	9 ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7pm CWops Mini-CWT Test VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest	10 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm RTTYOps Weeksprint NCCC Sprint	11	12 ARRL EME Contest ARRL September VHF Contest WAE DX Contest, SSB Russian RTTY WW Contest SARL Field Day Contest SKCC Sprintathon OH State Parks on the air TX, AL QSO Parties Russia Cup Digital Contest
13 ARRL EME Contest ARRL September VHF Contest WAE DX Contest, SSB SARL Field Day Contest SKCC Sprintathon TX, AL QSO Parties Russia Cup Digital Contest Swiss HTC QRP Sprint	14 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm WW Sideband Activity Contest	15 Phone Fray RTTYOps Weeksprint	16 ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7pm CWops Mini-CWT Test RSGB 80M Autumn Series, SSB NAQCC CW Sprint	17 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm RTTYOps Weeksprint NCCC Sprint Bavarian Contest Club QSO Party	18 AGB NEMIGA Contest	19 ARRL 10GHz and Up Contest FOC QSO Party Collegiate QSO Party All Africa DX Contest Scandinavian Contest, CW IA, NJ, NH QSO Parties SRT HF Contest SSB Wisconsin Parks On The Air
20 ARRL 10GHz and Up Contest FOC QSO Party Collegiate QSO Party All Africa DX Contest Scandinavian Contest, CW IA, NJ, NH QSO Parties SRT HF Contest SSB NA, BARTG, RTTY Sprints	21 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm 144 MHz Fall Sprint	22 Phone Fray RTTYOps Weeksprint WW Sideband Activity Contest	23 ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7pm CWops Mini-CWT Test	24 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm RTTYOps Weeksprint NCCC Sprint	25	26 CQ WW Contest, RTTY Maine QSO Party
27 CQ WW Contest, RTTY Maine QSO Party	28 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm QCX Challenge RSGB FT4 Contest	29 Phone Fray RTTYOps Weeksprint WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	30 ROC City Net 3.810 MHz, 7pm CWops Mini-CWT Test UKEICC 80M Contest			

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES NEWS

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend.

On even numbered months the meetings are held at the Monroe County EOC, 1190 Scottsville Rd. (Media Room, 2nd floor, north end). On odd numbered months we meet at the Red Cross, 825 John St.. W Henrietta. at 6:00 PM. Please check our website for any schedule changes.

If the doors are locked, call WB2EOC on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the N2MPE 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC.

There is no net on nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

WEB: www.monroecountymcomm.org

Facebook : Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

Severe Weather Alerts: Winter may bring severe weather in the form of heavy snow storms, strong winds, and flooding. If you experience severe weather, especially when accompanied by damage to property in your area, listen to your local ARES/RACES repeaters for information. While official ARES/RACES activation could be a possibility, it is more important that we open a spontaneous net simply to share information about weather conditions in your immediate area. Don't wait for someone else to do it. Pick up the microphone and start a net. Have each check-in station give you a situational awareness report and emergency power report. If you don't have a copy of the directed net protocol, you can find one at the WEB address listed above. (Activities/ARES Net/ Net Script/

Downloads). We encourage all amateur radio operators to take a free Skywarn TM class offered by the National Weather Service. The schedule of classes can be found at <https://www.weather.gov/buf/skywarn>

Monroe County ARES
Ralph Dutcher, Net Control - KD2BDZ@arri.net

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

We will hold a zoom meeting on Tuesday 15 September at 7:30pm (as all access to the EOC has been put on hold until 2021).



Same will hold true for October - Zoom meeting on Tuesday 20 October, program is "K3LR - Tim Duffy - DX Engineering" which will begin at 8:00pm.

For additional information on upcoming meetings and events, please, [Check rdxa.com](http://rdxa.com) for details

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The Rochester Radio Repeater Association, RRRA invites you to attend its meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Friday of the month in the Pittsford Town Hall Basement starting at 7:30 PM.

Stay tuned to our web site, www.k2rra.org

The elected RRRA officers for 2019 - 2020 are, Bob Shewell, N2HJD, President, Bob ODell, N2BZX, Vice President, ED Wilkonski, KC2WM Secretary, and Bob Smith, NS2B-Treasurer / Membership Chairman. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site. www.k2rra.org

XXR AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XXR Amateur Radio Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. The meetings are 6PM at the Webster Recreation Center. Look for details on our website <http://xarc.us>

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to join us on-line & on-the-air! We're here to help you to use the license that you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

**Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.200 USB**

**No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426**

We can help to answer the question, "What radio should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands, giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research each one to see which serves you best. Ask questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models, but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication. These are good all-around radios no matter what club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Town and Country Fire Department on Gardner Rd in Horseheads New York. Chemung County ARES (CCARES) meets the first Tuesday of the month except February on Harris Hill, next to the National Soaring Museum. See <http://www.ccares.info> for details. CCARES serves the entire area in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties and all are welcome.

Our new website is up and running, although future enhancements are still planned. Check it out at <http://www.arast.info>.

Both CCARES and ARAST monthly meetings will be held online until further notice. Check out the Upcoming Events on [arast.info](http://www.arast.info) for particulars.

Our 2020 Hamfest, which was scheduled to be held this year on September 26, 2020 at the Chemung County Fairgrounds in Horseheads, New York, has been cancelled because we are unable to meet the strict requirements of the state and county and still make it a viable event.

Anyone who currently holds a ticket may obtain a reimbursement by mailing a stamped self-addressed envelope to ARAST, P.O. Box 614, Horseheads, NY 14845-0614. (Make a photocopy for your records.) Alternatively, you can use this year's ticket at next year's hamfest, scheduled for September 25, 2021, or consider it as a donation.

We regret that the 2020 Guthrie Wineglass Marathon in the Corning area will not be taking place as a "live" event. Hopefully, in 2021, things will be back to normal, and we will again be looking for extra communicators.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 672027 with the call sign KA2BED-R. A full list of repeaters that can be heard in the Twin Tiers area surrounding Chemung County can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non-club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Rikki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

The purpose of our association is to:

- promote interest in Amateur Radio communication and advancement of the radio art.
- conduct programs, training, and exercises that enhance the skills of the members, and educate the community.
- develop ties with other services and establish relationships with community organizations.
- provide emergency communication services.
- promote enjoyable Amateur Radio related events.

The association was incorporated in 1991 and has been a vibrant part of the community ever since. We have a very active VE testing program. We also participate in numerous public events (the Wineglass Marathon and the Wine Country Classic Boat Regatta are two of the largest).

We operate a system of three repeaters (which are linked), providing a large area footprint for two meter FM amateur use. Please see our website for details. (klara.us)

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Civil Defense and Fire Training Center on Route 54 in Bath, NY.

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

**Due to our current health crisis please
check your organization's web site for the
status of meetings and events.**

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

SQUAW ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC) meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. There will be testing in September. The meeting for Wednesday, September 9th will be for election of Club Officers for 2021. The meeting has yet to be determined if it will be virtual or in person, Check the SIARC WEB page for details.

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate. 73's Steve Benton, WB2VMR, VP SIARC

INTERLOCK ROCHESTER - K2HAX - ROCHESTER'S HACKERSPACE

Visit our website at <http://www.interlockroc.org/>,
contact us at info@interlockroc.org,
or find us in #interlock on Freenode IRC.

ROCHESTER MAKERSPACE

For more information visit <https://www.makerspacerochester.org/hamradio>

GENESEE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Email n3dsp@lafireline.net for details.

ASTRONOMY SECTION ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

For more information visit <http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/>

Due to our current health crisis please check your organization's web site for the status of meetings and events.

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fshick3@gmail.com

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Contact us for details at
editor@rochesterham.org.

RARA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS

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Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

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Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

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Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)

Steve Benton, WB2VMR: sbenton2@rochester.rr.com

XRX Amateur Radio Club

Brian Donovan, K2AS: k2as@outlook.com

OCTOBER RAG DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

**RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST
WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.
JOIN US ON-LINE AT:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2017924203792028432>

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

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